Frieren
Beyond Journey's End
Chapter 145: Clairvoyance
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Art by Tsukasa Abe
So. Let's exchange information.
I'll tell you about my situation.
Translation: Misa 'Japanese Ammo' Lettering: Annaliese "Ace" Christman
But I do have to ask, just in case.
Could the Emperor's authority be used to halt the assassination?
You might as well tell a baker to reap wheat.
Do you know how the Empire has endured for thousands of years?
It has established a system that will not collapse...
...even when a fool like myself reigns.
The separation of powers...
...ensures that, no matter who the Emperor is, the Empire will continue to function.
It is nothing like the patchwork kingdoms throughout the realm...
...where a king can seize absolute power.
My authority does not reach the shadows.
Then you'd be worthless as a hostage too.
But it is true.
Somebody else would simply take the throne.
A terrifyingly cavalier statement.
You may not believe this, but I am quite the conscientious man.
I would also like to repay the kindness you showed Denken.
That said, I still intend to aid you in whatever way I can.
I didn't do anything.
Shall we get back to the matter at hand?
The magic enabling this prophetic vision...
...is a spell that allows me to occasionally experience the future in the form of a dream.
The timing and length of the dream are random...
...and the chance of it even activating in the first place is quite small.
It seems that this particular spell is limited to the caster's lifespan.
Needless to say, it hasn't shown me anything beyond the moment of my death.
For quite some time...
...I haven't been able to see...
...beyond the evening of the ball at the conclusion of the Foundation Day Festival.
I die there, and that's it.
What an awfully inconvenient spell.
Spells that allow you to see the future all have limitations...
...and they tend to be imperfect.
As far as I know, across the whole of human history, only one person...
...has ever managed to perfectly turn a prediction into reality.
What people call clairvoyance is actually...
...far from it.
It's all merely an attempt to create...
...the most accurate prediction possible by combining several spells.
Is that what you're doing?
No.
This prophetic dream spell is the only one I have left.
I've never really liked...
...using clairvoyance as a tool.
But many mages still pursue it, so those spells were granted as special privileges...
...starting with the most effective.
Now that my lifespan has been determined...
...the randomness that made the prophetic dreams worthless...
...is no longer an issue.
It's become quite a practical spell.
It's funny, isn't it?
Can you request aid from those mages?
They're all dead.
It's easy for mages who deal in clairvoyance to be killed.
Whether it's the arrogance of being able to see the future...
...or the work of another clairvoyant.
Considering the current situation...
...the latter seems most likely.
The enemy possesses some sort of magic that allows them to predict the future.
The only hope...
...is that their clairvoyance...
...is likely just as imperfect as mine.
At the ball tomorrow...
...just as the bell rings.
That will be the end for me.
They'll go for my throat from a blind spot.
It'll be over in a flash. I never catch sight of them.
Since I couldn't detect any mana, they're either a warrior...
...or somebody whose skills far exceed what should exist in this era.
The outcome never changes, regardless of where I am.
Avoiding the ball...
...or choosing not to visit the imperial capital made no difference.
And that is why you believe the enemy is capable of clairvoyance.
It's not the only reason.
While I despise running like a coward...
...I did try.
Simulacra.
Illusions.
Barriers.
I used every possible tool to evade death.
There was no attempt on my life that time.
I survived, but it resulted in...
...a far more gruesome outcome.
Numerous Continental Magic Association mages were killed instead.
There were casualties in every scenario...
...but that one was on a different scale.
Honestly, the Continental Magic Association has grown too large.
Many of its members play crucial roles in various cities and throughout the countryside.
I can't protect all of that.
They're using them as hostages.
They must be dying to dance with me at the ball.
It's their special way of asking me to give up my life.
But without clairvoyance...
...they wouldn't be able to make such an elaborate threat.
Your Majesty.
Can you think of anyone capable of such magic?
Fräse is the only one who comes to mind.
However, I can't imagine it's her spell.
If she could predict the future...
...she would never have allowed the Empire to decline so far.
Probably.
Besides, there aren't that many spells related to clairvoyance.
And most of them were passed down to a clan that was driven to extinction during the wars in the southern lands.
Fräse's features are distinctly northern.
I can't imagine she's descended from them.
Either way...
...it's time we considered the endgame.
Let's find a way to minimize casualties for us both.
Yes.
I grasp the situation now.
So...
...tell me what kind of information you seek.
Here they are.
What a show-off.
To be continued!

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